

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: PARTY RESULTS NORTHERN IRELAND GENERAL ELECTION

REF: BELFAST 153

1. SUMMARY: UUUC LOYALISTS WON 10 OF 12 SEATS IN OCT. 10
GENERAL ELECTION INCREASING THEIR TOTAL VOTE PERCENTAGE BY
7 PER CENT OVER FEBRUARY 28 ELECTION. SDLP WEAK SECOND
WITH 22 PER CENT. OBSERVERS UNANIMOUS INTERPRETING RESULTS
AS SWING MODERATE LOYALISTS SUPPORT TO HARDLINERS. TOP HEAVY
VICTORY FOR UUUC AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FORTHCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION ELECTION RAISE QUESTIONS WHEN OR EVEN WHETHER LATTER
ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD. THERE ALSO QUESTION LOCALLY WHETHER
MERLYN REES WILL STAY AS SECRETARY OF STATE AND WHETHER ENOCH
POWELL WILL HEAD UUUC DELEGATION IN PARLIAMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) IN WINNING TEN OF
TWELVE PARLIAMENT SEATS INCREASED OVERALL SHARE OF VOTES FROM
LAST FEBRUARY FROM 51 PER CENT TO 58 PER CENT DESPITE DECREASE
IN ELIGIBLES VOTING FROM 70 TO 67 PER CENT. UUUC LOST ONLY TWO
SEATS, ONE TO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) IN
WEST BELFAST GERALD FITT, AND ONE IN FERMANAGH SOUTH TYRONE
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WHERE ANTI-UNIONIST INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN FRANK MAGUIE OUSTED

OFFICIAL UNIONIST LEADER HARRY WEST. UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND (UPNI FAULKNER) AND NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR PARTY (NILP) LOST STRENGTH.

3. RESULTS BY PARTY FOLLOW FROM TOTAL POLL 702,094:

	VOTES CAST	PERCENTAGE SHARE OF POLL
UUUC	407,778	58.1
SDLP	154,193	22.0
ALLIANCE	44,644	6.4
UPNI	20,454	2.9
REPUBLICANS		
CLUBS	21,633	3.1
NILP	11,539	1.6
MARXIST/		
LENINIST	540	0.1
OTHERS	41,313	5.8

4. SEASONED POLITICAL OBSERVERS UNANIMOUS IN INTERPRETING RESULTS AS LOYALIST SWING AWAY FROM MODERATE TO HARLINE UNIONISTS. IN CONGEN VIEW THIS ASSESSMENT TEMPERED HOWEVER BY FACTORS INCLUDING ALLIANCE CLAIM OF GAINING 25 PER CENT OVER ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, BY SDLP CONTESTING THREE LESS SEATS THAN FEBRUARY AND INCREASING VOTE FIVE CONSTITUENCIES, BY RELATIVE NEWNESS FAULKNER UPNI AND BY FACT SDLP HOLLYWOOD AXTEENDED ENOCH POWELL IN SOUTH DOWN. POWELL WON BY ONLY 3567 VOTES (CORRECTED FIGURE) AND IT SUSPECTED MANY FAULKNER UNIONISTS FOLLOWED HINT OF LEADER WHO RESIDENT THERE AND VOTED AGAINST POWELL. "OTHER" VOTES INCLUDE 3,690 FOR VOLUNTEER POLITICAL PARTY, NOT AUSPICIOUS START FOR "NEW WORKING CLASS POLITICAL LEADERS".

5. FOR SIMILAR REASONS PROJECTION VOTING THIS ELECTION TO PROBABLE PATTERN VOTING FOR 78 SEATS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION CANNOT BE COMPLETELY ACCURATE. HOWEVER UNDER PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM ROUGH ESTIMATE POSSIBLE CONVENTION ELECTION RESULTS FOLLOWS: UUUC 46 SEATS, SDLP 18 SEATS, ALLIANCE 5, UPNI 5, REPUBLICAN CLUBS 2, NILP 2. IN LIGHT THIS FORECAST AND GIVEN UUUC INTRANSIGENCE OVER POWER-SHARING THERE INCREASING SPECULATION LOCALLY AS TO WHETHER CONVENTION ELECTION WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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HELD AT ALL. MODERATES AND SDLP WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SEE AT LEAST LENGTHY POSTPONEMENT ELECTION. RELATED TO THIS IS QUESTION OF RETENTION SECSTATE MERLYN REES. REES IDENTIFIED PERSONALLY WITH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION PLAN AND THERE SOME SPEUCLATION PRIME MINISTER WILSON WILL CHANGE THE NORTHERN IRELAND TEAM.

6. DEFEAT OF HARRY WEST WHO UNIONIST SPOKESMAN LAST PARLIAMENT RAISES QUESTION LEADERSHIP UUUC WESTMINISTER ENOCH POWELL HAS

ADVANTAGE PARLIAMENTARY REPUTATION BUT FACES OBSTACLES IN IAN
PAISLEY AND TO LESSER EXTENT WILLIAM CRAIG. POWELL WIN NOT
SUFFICIENTLY IMPRESSIVE OVER RIDE THEIR PREFERENCES. JAMES
MOLYNEAUX, FORMER UUUC WHIP HAD HIGHEST MAJORITY IN U.K.
IN GENERAL ELECTION AND IS FAVORED BY SOME UNIONISTS AS
COMPROMISE LEADER BUT HAS REPORTEDLY DEFERRED TO POWELL EXPERIENCE.
UUUC EXPECTED SELECT SPOKESMAN AROUND OCT. 20.

7. VOTING BY CONSTITUENCY FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.
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